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May 9, 2002

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Illinois Commerce Commission
RAIL SAFETY SECTION

Mr. Kevin L. Sharpe
Director of Processing and Information
Illinois Commerce Commission
Transportation Division
527 East Capitol Avenue
PO Box 19280
Springfield, IL 62794-9280

Re: Illinois First Project
57th - 59th Street Connector
Belleville, IL

Progress Report

Dear Mr. Sharpe:

In accordance with Illinois Commerce Commission **Order T00-0111**, dated September 12, 2001, we hereby report the following progress on the referenced project:

The project is currently about 3 months behind schedule, due to difficulties in obtaining approval of the final plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E) from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

The final PS&E for the referenced highway project were approved by IDOT on April 23, 2002. Construction bids are currently being solicited by the City. The letting is scheduled for May 22, 2002 and construction is anticipated to begin in early June. At this time, the project is expected to be substantially complete and open to traffic on or before March 12, 2003, which is the completion date specified in the Order.

Copies of the final plan sheets, which are substantially the same as those plan sheets submitted to the Norfolk Southern Railway Company in November, are being submitted to the Railway Company to complete coordination of the necessary railroad facilities at this new at-grade crossing.

Please call me at (618) 345-2200 (extension 17) if you have any questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

OATES ASSOCIATES, INC.

Alan J. Goepfert

Alan J. Goepfert, PE, PLS
Project Manager

cc: Mr. Richard Wilson, PE, Belleville City Engineer
Mr. Robert S. Berry, Railroad Section Staff

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